

The Advisor

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Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq



Brothers in life and death

An Iraqi Airman, killed in an aircraft crash with four American comrades, is the first Iraqi laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery

Aug. 13, 2005

MNSTC-I

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Cover: Four U.S. Airmen and one Iraqi airmen who died in a May 30 aircraft accident in Iraq were buried together Aug. 11 at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Amber K. Whittington

U.S. troop withdrawal hinges on Iraqi progress, MNF-I official says

By U.S. Army Sgt. Sara Wood

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11, 2005 – Iraqis are continuing progress toward meeting the two primary conditions for the reduction of Coalition forces in Iraq, a Multi-National Force-Iraq spokesman said.

In an Aug. 11 press briefing from Baghdad, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, a Multi-National Force-Iraq deputy chief of staff, stressed that the decision to move U.S. troops out of Iraq will be based primarily on the political process in the country and on the training and capability of Iraqi Security Forces.

But if progress continues the way it has, it is possible that there could be "fairly substantial reductions" in Coalition forces after the elections in December, Lynch said. He noted that the Coalition is not setting timelines on conditions for troop withdrawal. "The timelines are not relevant," he said. "What is relevant is that those conditions are indeed met."

"We see significant progress on the political process," Lynch said. The Iraqis are on track to meet the Aug. 15 deadline for drafting a constitution, he said.

"We're optimistic that since they've got the right people now talking through the issues, that there will be progress ... and they will adhere to

the timeline that's been established," he said.

Polls show that the Iraqi people have increased confidence in their government, are optimistic about the future and intend to vote in the referendum and election, Lynch said. Talks with Sunni leaders have given Coalition officials confidence that up to 80 percent of Sunni Arabs will participate in the elections, he added.

Iraqi Security Forces also continue to progress in training and operations, Lynch said. This week, 41 brigade-level operations were conducted throughout Iraq, all of which were combined efforts of Coalition and Iraqi forces. Also, two sectors in Iraq - one in Baghdad and one in the Diyala province - have been turned over to the control of Iraqi forces, he said.

"We are amazed, on a daily basis, with the capabilities and improvements of the Iraqi Security Forces," he said.

Reconstruction efforts throughout Iraq are further strengthening the country's development, Lynch said. Construction began this week on a \$13.1 million electrical distribution project that will bring power to about 128,000 residents in Sadr City, and a \$17.2 million maternity and children's hospital there is about 40 percent complete, he said. Both projects are slated to be completed by the spring of next year.

"I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances."

Martha Washington (1732-1802)

Five brothers in fight for freedom buried together

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The remains of five Airmen, brothers in arms to bring freedom to the nation of Iraq, were buried at Arlington National Cemetery Aug. 11 with full military honors.

They were U.S. Air Force Maj. William Downs of the 6th Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.; U.S. Air Force Capt. Jeremy Fresques of the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field; U.S. Air Force Capt. Derek Argel of the 23rd STS; Iraqi Air Force Capt. Ali Hussam Abass Alrubaeye of the 3rd Squadron, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq; and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Casey Crate of the 23rd STS.

The Airmen died May 30 near Jalula, Iraq, when their Iraqi Air Force Comp Air 7SL, a six-seat single-engine aircraft, crashed in the eastern Diyala province near the Iranian border. Downs and Abass flew the aircraft while Fresques, Argel, and Crate surveyed potential emergency landing fields.

The identifiable remains of each Airman involved in the incident, including those of Captain Abass, were returned to their families for interment. It is those remains that were unidentifiable that were buried, as a group, in Arlington National Cemetery. The grave marker will list the names of all five Airmen.

In honor of each fallen military member, U.S. Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff; Iraqi Maj. Gen. Kamal Abdul-Sattar Barzanjy, Iraqi Air Force commander; Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith, vice commander of U.S. Central Command; and Wooley presented an American



Iraqi Maj. Gen. Kamal Abdul-Sattar Barzanjy, commander of the Iraqi Air Force, presents the flag of Iraq to Gen. and Mrs. Hussam Abass Ali, the parents of Iraqi Capt. Ali Hussam Abass Alrubaeye, during an Aug. 11 funeral for the captain and four U.S. Airmen who died in a May 30 crash in Iraq.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Amber K. Whittington



Joint leaders salute as an Air Force honor guard deliver the remains of four U.S. and one Iraqi Airmen for a group burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Amber K. Whittington

flag to the American families in attendance and an Iraq flag to Abass' family.

Airmen from the 6th SOS, including Downs, have been attached to the recently- formed Iraqi Air Force 3rd Squadron to advise the air unit, help train their maintainers and assist them in standing up the squadron.

The May 30 mission the five Airmen participated in is not unlike similar missions that other branches of the U.S. military are involved with all over Iraq, officials said. The intent is to help Iraqi military members and police forces gain the experience they will need to take the reigns of their country and provide the stability needed to ensure freedom takes root there, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael W. Wooley, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command.

"It is important what these Airmen were doing, and very similar to what the Army is doing with the Iraqi ground forces and the Iraqi police force," Wooley said. "It is a mission of ours that we have been given, not just to AFSOC, but to all the Air Force members that are deployed over there with the various units. It is our duty and the Coalition's duty to ensure that the Iraqi military is capable of continuing on with the missions of defending their borders."

While the crew aboard the aircraft was multinational, they were united by airmanship and dedication to a common mission, Wooley said.

"This was a tragic accident and we continue to send our thoughts and prayers out to the families of both the Iraqi pilot and the American Airmen who were affected by this accident," he said. "But in a way, this brings Airmen closer together. There is a certain bond that Airmen have, and when you go into battle together, when you go through trying situations together, it tends to make that bond even

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Honor guard Airmen hold Iraqi and American flags to be presented to the families of four U.S. Airmen and an Iraqi Airman who died in a May 30 aircraft accident in Iraq.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Amber K. Whittington

Brothers

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stronger."

Lt. Col. Al Phillips of the 6th SOS and a friend of Abass, recounted one of those trying situations, a time when the two experienced difficulty with their aircraft and were forced to land unexpectedly.

"We were coming from Baghdad back to Kirkuk and were approximately 25 nautical miles from Kirkuk when we experienced an engine flameout," Phillips said. "We had to land on a dirt road next to some farmers' fields."

The two pilots watched as farmers and other members of the local population approached the aircraft in their vehicles. Had Abass been alone or with another Iraqi pilot, the situation might not have presented any difficulty, Phillips said. But at that time, the appearance of an American, especially an American military member, might have been trouble for both pilots.

"Captain Abbas didn't think we could evade without being seen, and if the local populace, the farmers, or whoever showed up at the aircraft (and) saw me, he wasn't sure how they might react," Phillips said.

At Abbas' recommendation, Phillips ducked out of site and began making calls to rescue forces while the captain talked with the local people and set their minds at ease.

"I thought, considering the situation we were in, that to think of this and to have the courage to actually suggest it and to speak it, it was incredible," Phillips said. "I owed him an incredible debt."

Later, Phillips said, the captain explained his motive.

"Captain Abbas made the comment afterwards, and I feel this is true of everyone," Phillips said. "He said we're all

brothers in the struggle for freedom. He was just implying that I'm his brother and he is my brother, that we are in this together and that we work together as a team. That's just the way I believe everybody feels."

U.S. Air Force Col. Kenneth Rodriguez, 720th Special Tactics Group commander, knew the Airmen from the 23rd STS -- their squadron is assigned to his group at Hurlburt Field. The colonel had visited the three, and others from their unit in March, just two months prior to their deaths.

"I knew them all well, and to a man, all three of them were outstanding individuals," Rodriguez said. "They were good at what they did. They were good operators, good leaders and superb teammates who put the welfare of the team in front of themselves."

Rodriguez said all five Airmen aboard the plane that day shared more in common than just their aviator status. He said they shared a common vision, a vision that is shared by all Coalition partners.

"These five men, they were fighting for what they believed in," he said. "They believed in freedom for their country and they believed in eliminating terrorism."

They were so strong in their shared beliefs, the colonel said, they were willing to take risks that they knew could be life threatening.

"They and the other men and women who take this risk do that because they believe the risk is justified by the cause, and that is the case of freedom and freedom from terrorism," he said.

Rodriguez said he knows there are no words that can truly console the families of the Airmen, and no words that can replace what has been lost. But he said the families need to know their loved ones did not die in vain.

"All you can do is say they were fighting for what they believed in and their life had purpose and meaning," he said.

MNSTC-I's new command sergeant major on board

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – On his second deployment to the Middle East, U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Ralph White plans to carry on with a goal set by his predecessor.

White, who was deployed here for the first Gulf War in 1991 as a tank crewman, took over the command sergeant major position with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq about a month ago. He's replacing U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Edwards, who has returned to Marine Corps Headquarters at Quantico, Va.

"We need to continue to convince the Iraqis that good NCO leaders are integral in a military organization," said White, a reservist from Amarillo, Texas who has spent the last two years on active duty at Quantico. "That was one thing Sgt. Maj. Edwards was focused on, and I'd like to continue with that."

As mentors and trainers, White believes NCOs must pay close attention to the example they set and make

sure they are upholding standards – even on things that may seem minor, like uniform policies and military courtesies.

"We can't be the professional organization we profess to be and not adhere to our own standards," White said. "No matter how petty the issue, it's about attention to detail. If you start breaking the rules on the small stuff, you start that slide into the bigger stuff."

White will be traveling the entire country of Iraq to visit troops, observe training and operations, and offer support as needed. At MNSTC-I's Phoenix Base headquarters, he'll also pay attention to morale and welfare issues.

White's 27-year military career started in the U.S. Army, with four years in military intelligence. He got out but soon followed friends into the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, where he's served for the past 23 years.



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Ralph White recently took over as command sergeant major for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq.
Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

In addition to his 1991 tour in Iraq, White was deployed in 2002 to South America. He decided to volunteer for a tour here in Iraq after watching plenty of others head here during his time at Quantico.

"I just thought it was my time to come," White said. "Everyone has to pay their dues."

White, who is married with three daughters ages 15, 25 and 30, is an emergency manager at an Amarillo nuclear weapons complex in his civilian life.

Graduates form fifth Public Order Battalion

AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq – Iraqi Police graduated 1,163 Public Order Brigade officers here Aug. 11 after they completed a six-week training program conducted at the Civil Intervention Force Academy at An Numaniyah Military Base.

The Public Order Police have been utilized as a bridging force to restore and maintain law and order in cities where the police force has not yet been established or will be reconstituted due to insurgent activity. They provide a critical security presence and ensure the safety and security of the local populace.

During the six-week course, students receive training in policing skills, weapons training, urban operations and close quarters tactics as well as human rights and police ethics.

The officers attending the course came from areas throughout Iraq and will be deployed to their respective assignments following graduation. More than 4,600 officers who previously completed the course have been outfitted, equipped and deployed in support of security operations.

— CPATT Public Affairs



Public Order Police officers march in review during a May 19 graduation ceremony for the 4th Public Order Battalion at An Numaniyah Military Base.
Photo by Ann Bertucci

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers keeping Sadr streets safe

By U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody
2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

SADR CITY, Iraq – U.S. and Iraqi Army Soldiers now patrol Sadr City, and the result is safer streets in what was once a hotly-contested area.

After a change in their area of operations, troops from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division got to know their new neighborhood during a recent patrol.

“It’s a lot of work, getting to know a new sector – we gather intel on terrorist operations, assess how receptive the locals are to our presence and develop informants,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jason Schwab, platoon leader. “We try and impress upon them that it’s in their best interest to help us, because the people who kidnap and extort them are the same ones planting bombs in the roads.”

During the patrol, Schwab stopped at the Al-Kanasa Police Station and spoke with a warrant officer about the neighborhood.



U.S. Army Sgt. Lee Minyard, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, pulls security at a street corner during a patrol in Sadr City.
Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

Sgt. Christopher Brisley, a section leader. “They’re so used to relying on one leader to make all the decisions, but they’re gradually taking the initiative.”

Along Sadr’s dusty streets, Brisley remarked that the streets had rivers of sewage running through them six months ago.

“People see the improvements, and it makes them happier



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jason Schwab, platoon leader with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, speaks with a local leader about trash collection in Sadr City.
Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

to see us (now) than they were when we (first) arrived in Iraq,” said Brisley.

Soldiers stopped at a high school to assess its condition and to see if terrorists were storing weapons inside. Finding the school clear, Schwab spoke to the principal about terrorist groups in the area.

“Building a rapport with influential people here is the best thing we can do right now,” Schwab said. “Intelligence from the locals is the most effective means of deterring terrorist activity in (our) sector.”

White both U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces plan and conduct missions in Sadr City, a quick reaction force is always standing by to aid either unit if they need additional fire-power. Soldiers from Company C, 3-15 Inf., staff the QRF and maintain a constant state of readiness.

The QRF has both M1 Abrams battle tanks and Humvees at its disposal. Despite Sadr’s narrow streets, some Soldiers prefer the tanks.

“The Abrams drives like a big Cadillac – it’s smooth as can be, even over rough terrain,” said U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Hyde, a Company C driver. “Traffic parts like Moses at the Red Sea when a tank is coming through.”

The QRF is in constant communication with their own unit as well as the Iraqi Army battalion, but they work much more with 3-15 Inf., said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Timothy Martin, a Co. C platoon leader.

“The IAB has their own QRF, and they’ve been launched several times,” said Martin. “We’ve only been out to help

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Pinning the Purple Heart

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Fletcher receives the Purple Heart Medal from U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil at an Aug. 6 ceremony at FOB Shield.

Fletcher, a member of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, received head wounds from an improvised explosive device that hit his vehicle during a convoy mission.

Fletcher is a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 131st Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, based in Bartonville, Illinois.

- Photo by Ann Bertucci

Don't blow it...

call EOD.



STAY ALIVE

0014

IEDs KILL

Iraqi Army battle staff trains on CMOs

By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Michael Klaphake
4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HONOR, Iraq – Iraqi Army officers from the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, trained on an important aspect of their profession during a Coalition-sponsored exercise July 25.

The U.S. military calls it Civil Military Operations, which includes missions such as providing humanitarian assistance to communities when needed, or conducting an economic assessment of a district in Baghdad.

Civil Affairs Soldiers from 4th Brigade Troops Battalion; 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment; and 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, all of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd U.S. Infantry Division, provided the training to the 17 members of the IA brigade battle staff.

"If the Iraqis only take away one thing from the training, I hope that they understand how important it is to develop an advance planning capability," said U.S. Maj. Daniel Canales, of Point Pleasant, N.J., the 4th BCT civil military operations officer and one of the primary instructors for the class.

The training was focused on CMO considerations in planning and conducting military operations for the IA



An Iraqi officer completes a CMO practical training exercise with fellow staff officers.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Carlos Molina

command staff said U.S. Maj. Carlos Molina, the 1-184 Inf. CA team commander and native of Puerto Rico.

The training was extremely well received by the IA staff members and included interactive practical exercises. The exercise put the Iraqi officers in various scenarios they will encounter in future real-world missions.

The primary purpose of the training was to give the staff considerations when planning CMO and to train them in such a way as to make a difference in their communities.

"This type of training is important because the Iraqi Security Forces need to demonstrate to their communities that they are a security force there for the protection and well-being of the populace," said Molina.

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them once – they can pretty much take care of themselves out there."

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-15 Inf., have spent months helping to prepare Iraqi troops for duty in Sadr City, and the progress is showing.

"They've come a long way in the past six months," said U.S. Army Capt. Zan Hornbuckle, HHC commander. "They're now a fairly proficient infantry battalion."

Hornbuckle has overseen much of the IAB's training, and said they consistently perform complex missions well.

"In the last two weeks, they've done two large cordon-and-knock operations which were big successes," he said. "They're building relationships with the local Iraqi Police, which is crucial to operating effectively in Sadr."

Hornbuckle said the IAB leaders are working hard to reach a common goal – to get the IAB to the level of expertise where U.S. guidance is unnecessary.

"It's been a lot of work to get them where they are today, so it's a rewarding feeling to see them taking initiative and operating on their own," Hornbuckle said. "They're proud of what they've accomplished, and that pride makes them a stronger unit."



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jason Schwab speaks with the principal of a girls' school in Sadr City.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

ISF detains 45 in combined search
BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces attempted to locate and detain between 150-200 individuals who had been identified during Operation Vanguard Thunder, during a search operation Aug. 5.

Iraqi Army soldiers and police officers were assisted by elements of the 184th U.S. Infantry Regiment during the operation. The search resulted in 45 suspects being detained.

ISF finding IEDs in Baqubah

BAQUBAH – Iraqi Security Forces located five separate improvised explosive devices in the area Aug. 5.

Iraqi Army soldiers identified a suspected IED on a roadway and immediately secured the area. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team confirmed the IED and destroyed it in place.

Also in Baqubah, Iraqi Police discovered four separate IEDs consisting of 155mm artillery rounds. The IEDs were removed by an Iraqi EOD team and transported to a disposal facility.

Several insurgents detained

MOSUL – Iraqi Police officers detained six individuals for passing out anti-Iraq force propaganda Aug. 6.

In two separate incidents in Mosul, Iraqi Police detained a total of six suspected terrorists in possession of and distrib-

uting anti-government materials. In the first incident, two suspected anti-Iraq forces were detained and taken to a secure facility for questioning.

In the second incident, another two suspected AIF were also detained. Upon questioning from the police, the suspects directed police to a location where the AIF materials originated.

Based upon that information, Iraqi Police independently organized a raid at the location which resulted in the death of one AIF, believed to be a Syrian national. Two other suspected AIF were detained during the raid. Police confiscated four rifles and two vehicles at the location.

Iraqi Army soldiers detain two

BALAD – Iraqi Army soldiers on patrol detained two suspected insurgents and weapons Aug. 6.

Soldiers with the 4th Iraqi Army Division found two mortar tubes in the Balad area. Two suspected insurgents in the area were detained and transported to an Iraqi compound for questioning.

Iraqi Army unit nabs suspects

MOSUL – Iraqi Army soldiers conducted a successful cordon and search operation in the local area and detained three suspects Aug. 6.

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division detained three suspected insurgents including one from Saudi Arabia. All three suspects tested positive for explosive residue. The detainees were transported to a secure facility for further questioning.

Team captures two car bombs

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces conducted a combined raid on a location known to be manufacturing vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices here Aug. 7.

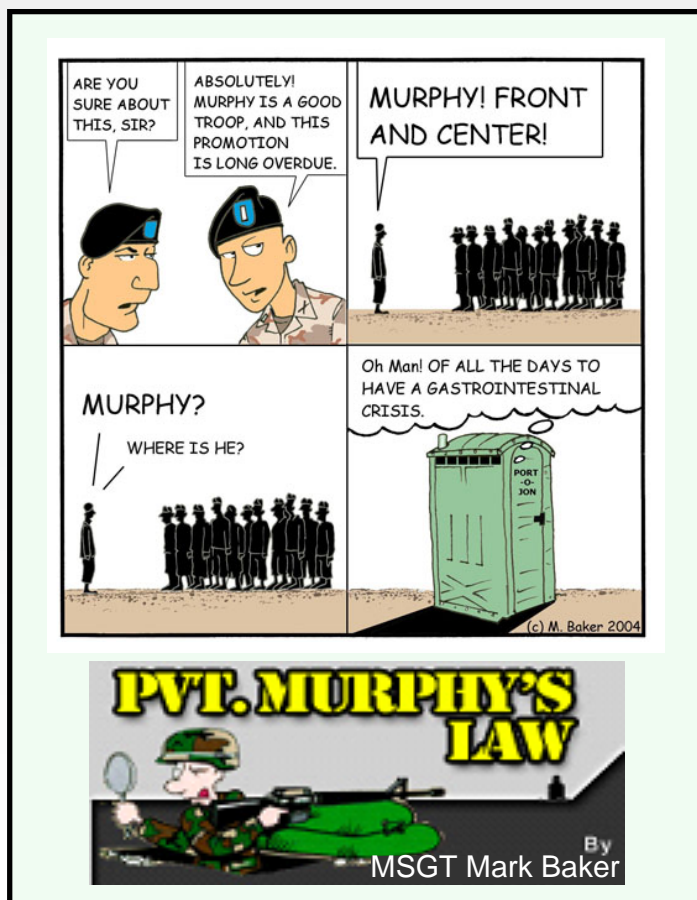
An Iraqi SWAT team and a Coalition support unit discovered two vehicles in a carport partially wired as suicide VBIEDs. Both vehicles had holes cut in the dashboard exposing detonators with wire connections to the trunk and under the hood. Four male suspects were detained.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, Iraqi Police and elements of 1st Battalion, 9th U.S. Field Artillery Regiment located a possible VBIED on a roadway. The dark blue, four-door sedan was secured and the immediate area was cleared. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team confirmed the presence of explosives and conducted a controlled detonation.

ISOF raids home

HAQLANIYAH – Iraqi Special Operations Force officers planned and executed a targeted raid against suspected anti-Iraq forces two kilometers southeast of here Aug. 8.

Officers secured the target site and detained six suspected insurgents. The detainees were transported to a detention facility for processing and further questioning.



Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

IEDs eliminated by Iraqi Army

FALLUJAH – Iraqi Army soldiers continue to find and reduce improvised explosive devices while conducting search operations throughout Iraq Aug. 6.

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force discovered an IED while on a dismounted patrol in Fallujah. The IED consisted of one 130mm artillery round enclosed in a white burlap bag with a car alarm receiver, a washing machine timer, and a battery. The area was secured and the IED was disarmed and removed for later disposal.

Elsewhere, Iraqi Army soldiers found IEDs in Rawah and Mugdadiyah. In Rawah, soldiers raided a building and found one 120mm artillery round and two pounds of propellant. Two suspected insurgents were detained.

In Mugdadiyah, a patrol located one 155mm artillery round and an unknown initiation device. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team removed the IED.

IIF stops suspect foreign fighters

RAWAH – Iraqi Army soldiers and Coalition forces captured suspected anti-Iraq forces in a targeted search Aug. 7.

Elements of U.S. Army Task Force 2-14 and soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force detained four suspected insurgents during the operation. The suspects included one Syrian male, one Sudanese male, a former Rawah police officer, and a civilian. The Sudanese man was in possession of an expired passport.

IED found, cleared in An Nasiriyah

AN NASIRIYAH – Iraqi Police located an improvised explosive device in the vicinity of the Police Joint Operations Center Aug. 8.

Officers secured the area, while an explosive ordnance disposal team officer cleared the IED. The IED consisted of a 122mm artillery shell with triple knot detonation cord attached to an electric detonator. No battery or other trigger devices were found.

Elsewhere, soldiers with 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division received a tip leading them to a location where they found two mortar rounds. EOD reduced the munitions without incident.

Source leads soldiers to cache

FALLUJAH – Iraqi Army soldiers were led to a weapons cache here while on a dismounted security patrol Aug. 10.

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force located the cache with instructions provided by a local national. The cache consisted of four rocket-propelled grenade launchers, three machine guns, 22 RPG rounds, one rocket, two rifle grenades, RPG fin assemblies, one bag of ammunition, one can of .303 ball/tracer mix, one can of armor piercing/tracer mix, one timing device, and one battery.

Three suspected insurgents were detained in connection with the cache and were transported to a secure facility for screening.

Money Facts



Front side



Back side

Did you know?

The front side of the new **25,000 Iraqi Dinar** illustrates a Kurdish farmer holding sheaf of wheat with a tractor in the background. The front side of the 25,000 Dinar is written in Arabic. The back side, with English writings, shows King Hammurabi. He is credited with writing the first code of law in human history and is considered the founder of the first dynasty of Babylon in 1700 BC.

The current exchange rates are as follows:

- U.S. Dollar = 1,476 Iraqi Dinar
- 25,000 IQD = 16.93 U.S. Dollars
- European Euro = 1,802 Iraqi Dinar
- 25,000 IQD = 13.87 European Euros
- Sterling Pound = 2,616 Iraqi Dinar
- 25,000 IQD = 9.55 Sterling Pounds
- Japanese Yen = 13.26 Iraqi Dinar
- 25,000 IQD = 1,885.37 Yen

- Information provided by Central Bank of Iraq web site

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi Police catch IZ bomber

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police conducted a raid at the residence of a suspected anti-Iraq force member in the New Baghdad District Aug. 8.

Police officers assigned to the Al Rashad station searched the residence and found one mortar launch tube and arrested one suspected AIF member. According to police, the suspect later admitted to firing one mortar round into the International Zone in exchange for payment of \$500 U.S.

The suspect is being held at a Baghdad detention facility pending further investigation.

Iraqi Army captures 16 suspects

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army soldiers continue their successful efforts to identify and capture suspected anti-Iraq force operatives in hideouts across Iraq. On Aug. 11, three separate operations led to the capture of 16 suspected AIF operatives in Khalis, Bayji, and Khan Bani Sa'ad.

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division conducted an early morning raid near Khalis resulting in nine suspects being detained, three of whom were on a targeted list.

In Khan Bani Sa'ad, six suspects were detained following a raid designed to capture individuals believed to be involved in recent drive-by shootings. Task Force 2-34 and elements of the 4th Iraqi Army Division confiscated three AK-47 automatic rifles, two 9mm pistols, and one bus. The bus is suspected of being the vehicle used in the shootings.

A possible escaped detainee was captured by soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division in Bayji. The suspect was driving a dump truck at the time of his capture. This same detainee is suspected of escaping from the Iraqi Army compound in Tikrit three months earlier.

Iraqi Police discover IED cache

MOSUL – Iraqi Police found a large supply of stored munitions used for making improvised explosive devices Aug. 8.

The cache consisted of eight 100mm artillery rounds, 27 82mm mortar rounds, 28 60mm mortar rounds, one 122mm artillery round, four anti-personnel mines, one 60mm mortar system, three rockets, night vision goggles, and other IED making materials including 20 pounds of plastic explosives, propellant, and blasting caps.

An explosive ordnance disposal team transported the cache to a nearby forward operating base.

Daisy-chained IEDs secured

RAWAH – Iraqi Army soldiers discovered five improvised explosive devices placed around a building Aug. 9.

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force located the five IEDs connected with wiring. Elements of the 2-14 U.S. Cavalry Regiment responded to the scene with an explosive ordnance disposal team. The daisy-chained IEDs consisted of two 130mm artillery rounds

and three 152mm artillery rounds.

Evidently, the insurgents were not done rigging the explosives around the building when IIF soldiers discovered the threat. An EOD team reduced all the IEDs without incident.

Iraqi, U.S. patrol nab kidnapper

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police and U.S. Soldiers worked together to capture two kidnappers and return a 2-year-old child to his parents in the Bayaa district of south Baghdad.

The combined patrol was working in the neighborhood around 2 p.m. Aug. 9 when a white van drove by. One of the vehicle's occupants fired six shots from an AK-47 assault rifle at the patrol and tried to speed away.

When the vehicle turned a corner to flee, the driver came upon an Iraqi Police undercover unit. The police fired four shots into the rear tires of the van and stopped it.

The combined patrol investigated and found a 2-year-old child who had been kidnapped from his home just minutes before.

The Iraqi Police arrested the driver and the passenger, impounded the van, and returned the child to his parents. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Looking back

One year ago in Iraq

Iraq beat Costa Rica 2-0 in Volos, Greece on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2004, to reach the Olympic Games quarterfinal giving the conflict-torn country real hopes for a fairy tale medal.

Italy and Portugal recovered from shocking upsets in their first round games by winning their second games to stay in contention.

But it was Iraq who continued to make the headlines after scoring maximum points from two games. Unable to play any of its qualifying games on home turf because of the war and subsequent violent conflict in its own country, the Iraqi team scored its second victory of the Olympic competition coming after a 4-2 upset triumph over star-studded Portugal.

Iraq was later defeated in the bronze medal game by Italy 1-0.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

IEDs found in Baqubah, Tikrit, Hit
BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces discovered and cleared three improvised explosive devices in three separate cities Aug. 9.

Iraqi Police discovered a 155mm artillery shell wired for command detonation in Baqubah. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team disarmed the device.

In Tikrit, Iraqi Police found a more complex IED rigged for remote control detonation. This IED was destroyed in place by an EOD team.

Soldiers in Hit located an IED which, according to local citizens, had been placed earlier in the day by three anti-Iraq force operatives. The IED was reduced by an EOD team. A cordon and search conducted by 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force detained the three suspected AIF operatives and transported them to a secure facility for questioning.

IED found in Balad clothing stand

BALAD – While conducting a security patrol in the area, Iraqi Army soldiers discovered an improvised explosive device under a clothing stand Aug. 10.

Soldiers with 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division noticed something unusual beneath a clothing stand which turned out to be an Iraqi claymore mine with two white wires connected to both sides. The wires were not attached to anything. Next to the claymore, soldiers found a timer and a battery. The claymore had no ball bearings.

The owner of the clothing stand was detained and transported to a secure facility for questioning.

Iraqi Coast Guard had busy July

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Coast Guard had a busy and successful month of operations in July according to their monthly operational reporting to the Ministry of Interior.

According to the report, the Iraqi Coast Guard searched 183 barges and vessels in July, with 11 of these searches resulting in the discovery of illegal documentation. In addition, 60 tons of illegal fuel was confiscated, along with AK-47 automatic rifles, ammunition, and fuel pumps. Six people were detained during the operations.

All paperwork and legal processes have been transferred to the Iraqi Customs Police for adjudication.

Terrorist training camp found

TALL AFAR – Elements of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, along with Coalition forces conducted a reconnaissance to locate and destroy insurgent caches of weapons and explosives.

While moving through their targeted area, the soldiers came under rifle fire from insurgents. The Iraqi soldiers returned fire and captured two individuals. Three other insurgents tried to escape from the area and ran directly into Coalition forces, which had set up a blocking position behind them.

The insurgents were protecting a large stash of explosives, improvised explosive devices, and other military paraphernalia. The site appeared to be an IED training camp, complete with sleeping and cooking areas, and a bunker complex. Among the items confiscated were numerous rockets and fuses, weapons and ammunition, “ready-made” IEDs, and other explosive materials.

Iraqi soldiers find cache

RAWAH – Iraqi Army soldiers found a weapons cache here Aug. 11. Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force discovered the cache under a vehicle. The cache consisted of two light machine guns and 3,000 rounds of ammunition, nine AK-47 automatic rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition, one NATO machine gun and 200 rounds of ammunition, four concussion grenades, one fragmentation grenade without fuses, and various other ammunition.

Police raid cache site in Mosul

MOSUL – Iraqi Police and Coalition forces conducted a successful raid in search of weapons here Aug. 11.

Iraqi Police officers and soldiers with 1-24 U.S. Infantry Regiment located 12 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, six 60mm mortar rounds, and rifle shells during the raid.

The munitions were turned over to an explosive ordnance disposal team

Elsewhere, Iraqi Police found 16 RPG rounds in Mosul and requested EOD assistance for disposal.

Police report success

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police Service officers continue to respond to insurgent violence with improved investigations, deliberate planning, and well-executed searches.

In the last several days, Iraqi Police Service officers in the New Baghdad District have conducted a variety of operations including raids involving over 450 officers. The targeted raids were directed at 40 residences and resulted in the confiscation of 30 AK-47 automatic rifles, two hand guns, and one machine gun. Police arrested 30 suspected insurgents, three of whom were targeted in the raids.

In addition, police at the Al Khanssa Police Station captured a kidnapper involved in the abduction of a local physician whose family paid a ransom to have the victim released. Following the arrest, police officers recovered the doctor's vehicle as well as the ransom money paid by his family.

Soldiers capture five targets

HABBANIYAH – Iraqi Army soldiers and Coalition forces conducted a successful cordon and search operation here Aug. 12. Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and 1-110th U.S. Infantry Regiment searched homes of suspected AIF members in the area. Five targeted AIF operatives were detained.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi Police graduate 239

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 239 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility Aug. 11 as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to train its security forces, according to the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 50 graduates, Interview and Interrogations with 25 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 25 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 25 graduates, Criminal Intelligence with 23 graduates, Executive Leadership with 27 graduates, Mid-Level Management with 12 graduates, and Election Security with 52 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course, designed to introduce participants to basic concepts of criminal investigation, covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. Students receive classroom instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. To date, 2,314 police officers have completed the Basic Criminal Investigations course.

The Interviews & Interrogations course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. To date, 568 students have completed this course.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes including armed robbery, rape and murder. This course has graduated 566 students to date.

Critical Incident Management is designed to provide par-

ticipants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents. To date, 560 students have graduated from this course.

The Criminal Intelligence course provides training in the planning, collection, analysis and distribution of intelligence information. This course also equips participants with the ability to recognize trends that may have an impact on public safety and security. This course has graduated 340 students to date.

Executive Leadership covers executive level concepts of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting. Other topics include visionary leadership, organizational values, interpersonal communication skills, motivational techniques and strategies, along with strategic planning. To date, 332 officers have graduated from this course.

Mid-Level Management is a course designed for supervisors who are responsible for managing the first line supervisors and their assigned personnel. To date, 395 students have completed this course.

The Election Security course covers the responsibilities of the police to ensure peaceful elections. Potential threats and areas of concern are examined from the standpoint of security and protection of candidates and the voting public during the election period. To date, 257 officers have completed the course which includes a train-the-trainer component to enable participants to serve as trainers in their respective police stations.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for police officers currently serving, who have received little or no basic training.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.

Iraqi equipment roll-up

A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces in the past week

Ammunition.....	3.7 million rounds	Ambulances.....	60
UAZ Jeeps.....	77	Handguns.....	150
LUV trucks.....	564	Body Armor.....	4,800
Z-Backscatter vans.....	2	Armored Personnel Carriers.....	7
2 1/2-ton trucks.....	26	Armored Jeeps.....	33

— Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4